

REMARKS

Claims 3, 17, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 18, and 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-16, 18-19, and 21-22 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giovannoli (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,328) in view of Walker (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207), in view of Fedor (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,660), and further in view of eBay auction listing #262794438.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giovannoli, Walker ('207), Fedor, and eBay in view of Ausubel (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,975). The Examiner has rejected Claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giovannoli, Walker ('207), Fedor, and eBay in view of Godin (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,138). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, Claim 1 recites that "the database includes historical bidding information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders." Support for the amendment may be found, without limitation, in the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 11 of the Specification. None of the references disclose this limitation. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-16 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As amended, independent Claim 18 similarly recites a system that "the database includes historical bidding information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders" and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above. Claims 19 and Claim 21 depend from Claim 18 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As amended, independent Claim 22 similarly recites that "the database includes historical bidding information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders." Therefore, it is believed that Claim 22 is also allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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